

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS  
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG  
MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

# Bayan

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## Editorial

# Raise the level of the growing patriotic united front

**T**he Communist Party of the Philippines and the revolutionary forces welcome the emergence and rapid expansion of the patriotic united front that resists American military presence and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's blind obedience to every directive and policy of US imperialism.

The Party recognizes the big potential of the patriotic united front not only in resisting the burning issues of US military intervention, but also in further strengthening the movement to terminate Macapagal-Arroyo's puppet rule.

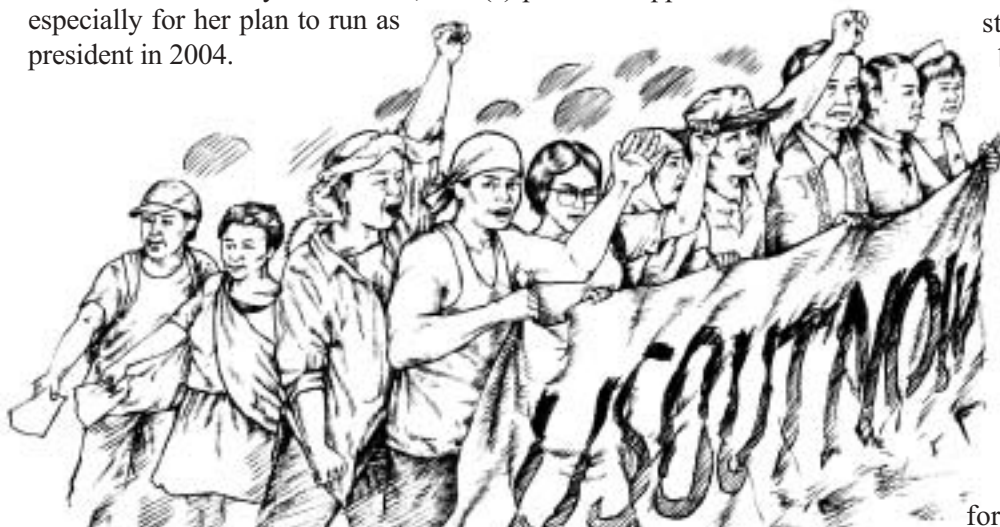
Macapagal-Arroyo's servility to US imperialism, especially to warmonger US President George W. Bush's "war against terrorism" is despicable. Macapagal-Arroyo is in a mad scramble to obtain (a) economic aid to shore up the tottering economy; (b) military support to push the counterrevolutionary all-out war; and (c) political support especially for her plan to run as president in 2004.

To attain this, Macapagal-Arroyo relentlessly advances the presence of US troops in the country through successive military exercises involving American soldiers and is pushing for the ratification of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA).

The regime has given its all-out support for US imperialism's arrogant and arbitrary foreign policy, especially its plans to wage war on Iraq. With the exception of United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair, Macapagal-Arroyo is alone in her zealous support for such US plans. Even before the US had requested it, the puppet regime had already offered the use of Philippine airspace and airports by the US military without the slightest consideration for the national interest.

The Macapagal-Arroyo's blind devotion to US imperialism, the ravaging of Philippine sovereignty and the thorough disregard for national honor have stoked the fires of patriotism among broad numbers of the people.

Even traditional politicians, including some from Macapagal-Arroyo's party, church people, the media and independent personalities have been impelled to oppose her. Among them is Vice Pres. Teofisto Guingona, who was booted out of the Department of Foreign Affairs for actively opposing the MLSA, Balikatan, the "all-out war" and the "war against terrorism" in unity with the national democratic forces.



TOP STORY: SUCCESSFUL TACTICAL OFFENSIVES OF THE NPA - see page 4

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This was starkly demonstrated on September 16 in a gathering attended by the senators who voted against the military bases in 1991 along with some congressmen, progressives and democratic organizations and personalities. (See related article on p.3)

The patriotic united front is bound to expand even further. With the passage of time, there is more and more loathing for Macapagal-Arroyo's blind obedience to the Bush doctrine, which is being criticized and condemned by a growing number of states and peoples the world over. Macapagal-Arroyo's isolation from the broad masses of the Filipino people is thus worsening.

The revolutionary forces must redouble their efforts in further expanding and strengthening the patriotic and democratic united front. Patriotic struggles in the Philippines must also be linked to the patriotic struggles of peoples of other countries.

We must set ablaze the spirit of militant patriotism, the active and

resolute resistance to US imperialism's subjugation of Philippine national sovereignty. The patriotic and democratic united front will wield as its main weapon the launching nationwide of massive protest actions, drawing in the various sectors and social strata.

In accordance with the patriotic agenda, the MLSA must be discarded along with the Visiting Forces Agreement and other unequal treaties that advocate US interventionism and hegemonism. We must demand an end to military exercises and the presence of American troops, push for the resumption of peace negotiations with the NDF and oppose all US moves that imperil the peace talks. We must call for an end to US warmongering against Iraq and the withdrawal of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's support for this unjust war.

Within the framework of a broad patriotic front, we must encourage the middle forces to advance the concrete demands of the basic masses against imperialist plunder and oppression.

The patriotic united front must highlight the issues of economic sovereignty and the oppressive policies of imperialist "globalization" and

expose and oppose the widespread poverty and overall economic crisis it engenders.

We must likewise encourage the patriotic forces to steadfastly resist the fascist policies attendant to the US "war against terrorism", including the proposed anti-"terrorism" law that aims to suppress the Filipino people's basic civil rights.

The patriotic and democratic united front is imbued with much relevance. It is comparable to the broad popular unity against the US military bases that led to the rejection of the military treaty's renewal in 1991. In fact, this patriotic front may encompass even bigger numbers as there are currently so many burning issues that expose the imperialist oppression of the Philippines and the puppetry of the neocolonial republic.

In waging all-out action and resistance, the patriotic united front may play a big role in frustrating Macapagal-Arroyo's attempts to remain in power beyond 2004. A powerful mass movement may even now be generated to put an end to the puppet Macapagal-Arroyo regime. It would be fine if Macapagal-Arroyo's successor were to stand for a program advocating national sovereignty and freedom in the economic, political and military realms. **AB**



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## ANNOUNCEMENT

[www.philippinerevolution.org](http://www.philippinerevolution.org)

The Party has relaunched its website on the internet. Called the "Philippine Revolution Web Central," it will carry the latest issues of *Ang Bayan*, statements, revolutionary publications and other information about the Party and the revolutionary organizations in the Philippines.

Managed by the CPP Information Bureau, the website is found at [www.philippinerevolution.org](http://www.philippinerevolution.org). Everyone is enjoined to access the website and help in its improvement.

The website was launched with the help of revolutionary forces in the United States who are in solidarity with the Filipino people's correct and just struggle against US imperialism.

# Guingona's voice of patriotism

In the face of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's rabid puppetry, Vice President Teofisto Guingona's patriotism is exceptional.

Guingona's resolute stand against Balikatan, the MLSA and other military agreements between the Philippines and the US are indeed significant. He opposed the entry of US troops in the country and the fact that this embroils the Philippines in the impending US war on Iraq. He stood his ground on these issues even if it meant his removal last July as secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Even in the past, Guingona had already shown a patriotic and anti-fascist stance. He was among the thousands who were incarcerated by the Marcos fascist dictatorship when martial law was declared in 1972. Upon his release, he fought, as an attorney, for the release of political prisoners and exposed rampant cases of human rights violations. He was also among those who opposed questionable foreign loans and marched in unity with the broad anti-dictatorship mass movement.

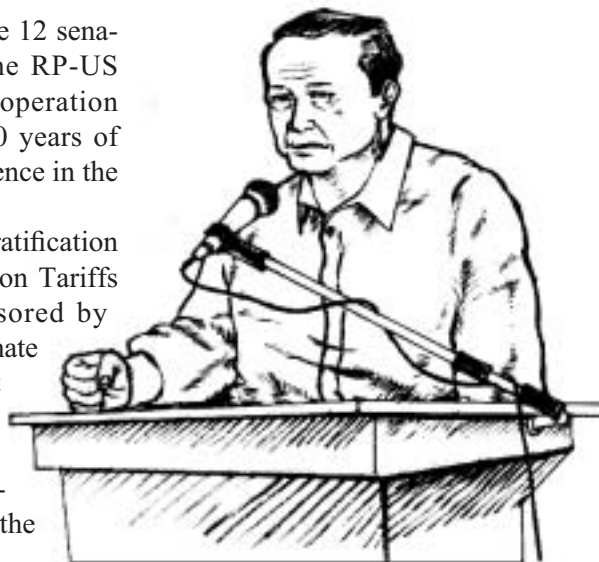
Guingona continued to take a stand even when he became senator under the Aquino regime. On September

16, 1991, he was among the 12 senators who voted against the RP-US Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Security that ended 50 years of the US military bases' presence in the Philippines.

Guingona opposed the ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) sponsored by Macapagal-Arroyo in the senate in 1994. This agreement served as the foundation for the liberalization of the economy that is now causing unprecedented crisis in the Philippines.

In 1999, Guingona opposed the Visiting Forces Agreement even if most of his partymates in LAKAS-NUCD voted for it. He stressed that the agreement would reverse the victorious rejection of the US military bases.

In 2000, one of the factors that kicked off the impeachment process against Joseph Estrada was Guingona's speech "I Accuse." He unhesitatingly united with and actually participated in the mass movement to oust Estrada. His signal role in this movement could not be ignored by Macapagal-Arroyo, who thus designated him as vice president.



Nonetheless, Guingona maintained his patriotitic stance.

He has thus gained the growing respect and support of the people. The people's ardent support for Guingona will continue if he persists in his patriotism and his pro-people stance.

Should he take up this challenge, he will be counted among the ranks of Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada and Jose Diokno who served as symbols of courage and resoluteness in the fight for national sovereignty and played a relevant role in the history of the people's struggle for national liberation. **AB**



## Military bases ouster commemorated

The 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the senate's rejection of the treaty that would have extended the presence of US military bases in the Philippines was commemorated on September 16. The gathering held at the

University of the Philippines and dubbed "Reliving September 16, 1991" was organized by Bayan Muna, Vice President Teofisto Guingona and former Sen. Wigberto Tañada.

Twelve senators, including Tañada and Guingona, voted against the proposed "RP-US Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security," signalling the end of 50 years of the US military bases' presence in the Philippines.

The activity was attended by leaders and members of mass organizations. Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council for Philippine Affairs and Linda Montayre of the People's Consultative Assembly (both former Macapagal-Arroyo

*continued on page 4*



*"These successful tactical offensives show that the revolutionary forces are ready to face and frustrate the all-out war campaign of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. In accordance with the call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the revolutionary forces shall intensify the armed struggle by carrying out more and more armed tactical offensives. – Ka Roger, September 29, 2002*

## NPA raids municipal hall in Quezon

NPA Red fighters attacked the municipal hall of Lopez, Quezon on the afternoon of September 27. Killed in the raid were Lopez chief of police Supt. Cesar Santander, SPO4 Nestor Santiago and one other PNP element.

The guerrillas quickly entered the municipal hall by employing a ruse. Some of them wore barongs and pretended that they wanted to file a case while some posed as AFP soldiers and others as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation.

The guerrillas had already taken their positions inside the municipal hall when some policemen grew suspicious and fought it out. The Red fighters took control of the municipal hall after a firefight that lasted a number of minutes and confiscated all firearms from the armory before making a safe retreat.

## Scout Rangers ambushed in Leyte

Four elements of the Philippine Army Scout Rangers were killed and two were wounded in an ambush staged by an NPA platoon in Barangay Mabuhay, Mahaplag, Leyte on September 20. The ambush took place at around 3:15 p.m. as four elements of the 3rd Scout Ranger Company who were aboard a Kennedy-type jeep were on their way to Tacloban City.

Five high-powered firearms were seized by the NPA during the firefight, including an M203, two M16s, a Baby-M16 and an M14.

A platoon of reinforcements from the 3<sup>rd</sup> SR Company and the 53<sup>rd</sup> IB's Charlie Company was ambushed by an NPA blocking force. One enemy soldier was killed.

Meanwhile, a soldier from the 63<sup>rd</sup> IB was killed in an encounter with an NPA unit that same day.

## 33 firearms seized in Compostela Valley raid

Up to 33 firearms were seized when Red fighters under the Rhyme Petalcorin Command-New People's Army (RPC-NPA) raided the Philippine National Police station in Maco, Compostela Valley on September 24. Among the weapons seized were 17 armalites, three M14s, four Garands, three .38 caliber pistols, a Browning automatic rifle, ammunition and a VHF radio.

According to RPC-NPA spokesperson Diomabok Kadyawan, the daring raid proves the NPA's capability to launch surprise attacks on legitimate targets. He said the raid was successfully conducted because of the people's cooperation with the NPA.

The daring raid was launched without a single shot being fired through the use of stratagem. First, guerrillas posing as Philippine Army soldiers captured Maco mayor Miller Alaba at around 6:30 p.m. and brought him to the police station in Barangay Mapaang. Alaba introduced the Red fighters as soldiers of the 72<sup>nd</sup> IB, thus enabling them to enter the station easily and disarm the police. The Red fighters carted away all weapons in the station's armory in 15 minutes. They easily made their retreat through the nearby forest.

Shamed, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime immediately ordered the relief of the entire PNP force in Maco and filed treason charges against Alaba. The local intelligence unit is likewise being investigated for its incompetence. **AB**



*"Military bases...", from page 3*

allies) also showed their solidarity with their presence.

The participants demanded that Macapagal-Arroyo publicize the contents of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement and submit the treaty for deliberation in the Senate.

That same day, hundreds of demonstrators rallied in front of the US Embassy to oppose US military intervention in the Philippines and the threatened strike against Iraq. The protest action led by BAYAN, Bayan Muna and other progressive organizations was likewise joined by the International League of Peoples' Struggle.

Simultaneously, the Liberal Party (LP) inaugurated a monument called "Inang Laya." The monument hailed the correctness of the military bases' ouster. Even if the LP formed part of the ruling coalition, it daringly defied the rabidly pro-imperialist stance of its honorary chairperson, Macapagal-Arroyo. **AB**

# Bush warmongering against Iraq continues

US President George W. Bush is hell-bent on waging war on Iraq, with or without support. He obstinately demands the overthrow of Saddam Hussein whom he portrays as a butcher and a threat to world peace and civilization.

Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell have been coercing the United Nations (UN) to immediately issue a new resolution allowing the US to attack Iraq if the latter refuses to abide by the UN's resolutions. Bush has also filed a resolution at the US Congress pushing for military action against Iraq. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has set the deadline for passing the resolution before the November 5 elections.

Bush has been acting like a bully in disregarding UN processes. On September 26, US and British war-planes bombed two civilian airports in southern Iraq because the area was allegedly within the "no-fly zone" forcibly imposed by the US and United Kingdom (UK) in 1991.

Bush also dismissed as a "mere tactic" Iraq's declaration on September 17 allowing the entry of UN weapons inspectors, which used to be what the US demanded. Iraq has also promised the inspectors full freedom to investigate.

Iraq's decision was in accordance with the desire of the majority of UN members. Its aim is to belie US accusations that it was mass producing weapons of mass destruction.

## NARROW BASE OF SUPPORT

Last year, Bush and the militarists exploited the grief and anger of the American people in the wake of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He was immediately able to gather the support of congress and public opinion for waging a "war against terrorism" and for armed aggression against Afghanistan. But the American people

and peoples the world have in time, grown to realize the madness of the Bush doctrine.

Support started to dwindle when the "war against terrorism" was escalated beyond Afghanistan. The US became isolated when it threatened that any country that was not for this war would be considered an enemy. US isolation worsened with its warmongering against Iraq.

"No to War!" was the cry of growing numbers of the American people. "Adventurism" was German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's severe criticism of Bush's plans to attack Iraq. For France, Russia and China, the inspection of the so-called weapons of mass destruction will suffice for now. The Arab League, on the other hand, gravely fears the outbreak of massive turmoil due to US plans to attack Iraq. Meanwhile, US allies Canada and Indonesia have said that they have no

desire to be involved in this war.

Only UK Prime Minister Tony Blair—and the ever-reliable puppet Macapagal-Arroyo—are outrightly supporting Bush.

Despite widespread opposition to a war against Iraq, Bush has ordered the US military's high command as well as the Central Intelligence Agency to make arrangements for military cooperation with Qatar and the stationing in that country of 1,000 troops from the US Central Command.

This is aside from 5,000 armed troops at the Prince Sultan Airbase in Saudi Arabia and the 30,000-strong Tank Division already stationed in Kuwait. Up to 250,000 American troops are also reportedly in the Persian Gulf now. A hundred thousand troops will likewise reportedly assault Iraq.

## BUSH'S MOTIVES

Bush is hurriedly preparing to attack Iraq in accordance with his "first strike policy" even before he could come up with any solid basis for his allegations that the Iraqi government has links with the terrorist al

Qaida or harbors and produces weapons of mass destruction. Why does Bush hate Iraq so much?

Bush's real and biggest motive is to find a way out for desperate American monopoly capitalists who are up to their necks in problems due to the collapse of the stock market, the outbreak of big corporate anomalies and the unrest that besets the Ameri-



can people as a result of years of recession. If these problems remain unresolved, Bush's Republican Party will be jeopardized in the November polls.

The Bush government hopes to pump-prime the economy through the production of war materiel. Bush is set to pour in up to \$379 billion for the production of military equipment. In addition, Bush has also allocated \$50 billion for the "war against terrorism."

The planned attack on Iraq has particular relevance for the US. As Iraqi officials have said, "the US wants to control our oil." Iraq is second only to Saudi Arabia in the vastness of its oil reserves. It is these 12 billion barrels of oil reserves that the US and other imperialists covet.

The US is fuming mad due to Iraq's assertions of independence. Bush eagerly desires to overthrow Iraq to set up a regime that will favor US policy dictates. **AB**



## Bush: Hitler, threat to peace

US President George W. Bush went ballistic when Germany's Justice Minister Herta and Paul Daehring-Gmelin compared him to Adolf Hitler, the despised leader of the fascist Nazis. Daehring-Gmelin said that Bush's warmongering against Iraq aims to "divert (the public's) attention from domestic political problems. Hitler also did that."

Before this, Jean Chretien, prime minister of US ally Canada, criticized the US' unilateralism and arrogance. In an interview, Chretien linked the terrorist attacks to world poverty and US world economic domination. The US, he said, is also to blame for the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Chretien added that the US should not use its strength to humiliate others.

In a related development, former South African president and Nobel Peace Prize awardee Nelson Mandela called the US a threat to peace. According to Mandela, the US is undermining the UN as the forum for settling international disputes. He also said that the US' hardline stance against Iraq favors American oil and arms companies. **AB**

## US: Threat to the security and independence of nations

The United States' new National Security Strategy (NSS) document arrogantly declares the US' status as today's sole superpower. The document was issued on September 20 as part of Bush's warmongering against Iraq.

Through the NSS, the US brazenly threatens to use its military superiority to block any attempt by any country to challenge its power.

The US uses the September 11, 2001 attacks as a pretext to make its plans of armed aggression appear like acts of self-defense.

While calling for a stop to other countries' production of weapons of mass destruction with such overweening arrogance, the US blatantly declares that it will maintain the forces and arsenal sufficient to allegedly ensure peace. It says that it will not hesitate to launch preemptive attacks on any country it considers terrorist "before the threat reaches" the US.

The US has also openly shunned the role of other countries in deciding on international conflicts. It says it will not hesitate to act alone "if necessary."

The NSS summarizes the Bush doctrine, which is none other than the unbridled use of military force to perpetuate US imperialist domination of the world. **AB**

## Opposition to war on Iraq spreads

There is growing opposition from the world's peoples to the US' plans of aggression against Iraq.

In London, capital of the United Kingdom, up to 150,000 rallied on September 28 to oppose the US and UK's plans to attack Iraq. The rally, organized by the Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain, was one of the biggest antiwar demonstrations in European history.

Marking the intense disapproval, even by officials of the UK, for their government's bellicose policies, London mayor Ken Livingstone showed his solidarity for and spoke before the rally. Mo Mowlam, a former Blair cabinet minister and now a severe critic, sent a message of solidarity. Members of parliament from Blair's own Labour Party likewise spoke before the crowd. Scott Ritter, who led the group of weapons inspectors that entered Iraq in 1998 also gave a speech. Union leaders and some high officials of the Church of England likewise joined the demonstration.

In Rome, Italy, a march-rally against the US war on Iraq organized by the Communist Refoundation Party was attended by more than 100,000 people also on September 28. According to the latest surveys, almost 70% of Italians are opposed to waging war

*continued on page 7*



# The Arroyo couple's scandalous corruption

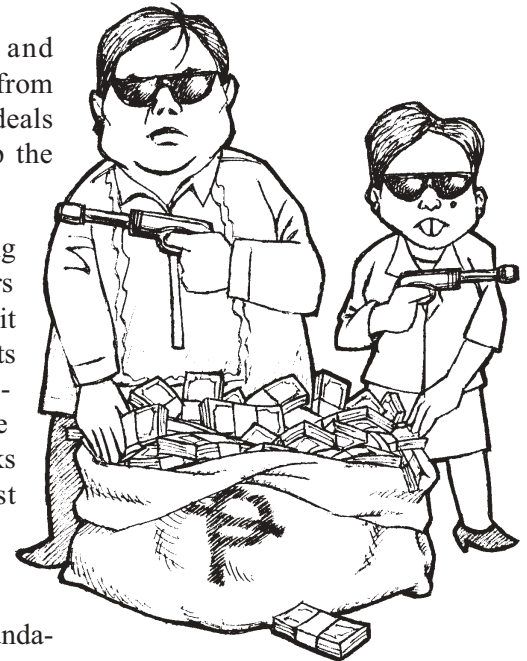
Mike and Gloria Arroyo are so voracious in squeezing bribes and commissions from every contract entered into, big or small, and from all government financial institutions. It is Mike Arroyo himself who deals directly with foreign contractors to ensure that the couple gobbles up the biggest possible lucre.

On September 19, Sulpicio Tagud Jr., one of the directors of the Public Estates Authority (PEA), disclosed that Mike Arroyo himself and his cronies in the PEA were involved in the anomalous construction of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) in Manila. Tagud said that the PEA Board of Directors connived with the JD Legaspi Corporation (JDLC) to make it appear that construction costs exceeded P1 billion even if actual expenses were in the neighborhood of P500 million. The P600 million excess went directly to Arroyo's pockets.

More than half of PEA's expenses (P500 million) were defrayed by funds from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). No less than Malacañang ordered the GSIS to extend a loan to the PEA despite the agency's financial problems. To comply with the order, the GSIS delayed the release of retired employees' monthly pensions. It also rejected many loan applications from GSIS members and deferred housing projects for them.

The JDLC contract has long been a milking cow of the powers that be. Estrada benefited from it in 1999. But much bigger amounts were milked when Macapagal-Arroyo appointed her own people to the PEA leadership. Kickbacks were channeled through Ernest Villareal, PEA head and a close friend of Mike Arroyo. In addition, Villareal likewise serves as the head of the Bigkis Pinoy Foundation, a front organization of the Arroyo family and a suspected fundraiser for Macapagal-Arroyo's election kitty for 2004.

Before the PDMB anomaly hit the headlines, the Arroyo couple's extortion from the Cheng family (overt owners of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. or PIATCo) had already been bared before the public. PIATCo is the government contractee for the construction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 under the build-operate-transfer scheme. As soon as Macapagal-Arroyo took power, she and her husband made a deal with PIATCo.



In exchange, PIATCo agreed to give about \$4.4 million (P220 million based on a P50=\$1 exchange rate) bribe to Macapagal-Arroyo. With the help of their operator Dante Ang, the Arroyos put in Alfonso Liongson as a "special consultant" to PIATCo so that the bribe money could be channeled through him. From June to December, Liongson received \$2.1 million (P105 million).

The amount of \$4.4 million was never completed because Liongson was forced to go into hiding in January 2002 when intense criticisms of the anomalous contract continued without

## "Opposition to war...", from page 6

on Iraq, contrary to the position of the country's Rightist prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Similar rallies were held in Paris, France; Sydney, Australia; and in various US cities on September 28 and 29.

In the Philippines, more than 100 church people from 22 countries rallied in front of the US Embassy on September 27 to condemn "US state terrorism" against Iraq and other targets of the "war against terrorism." The rally served as the culmination of the International Ecumenical

Conference on Terrorism in a Globalized World held in the Philippines from September 23-26. It was attended by 130 delegates, including 103 foreign church people from 22 countries and representing 14 denominations.

Prior to this, Sandeep Pandey, an Indian engineer and one of this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardees, joined a rally in front of the US Embassy in September. Pandey openly assailed the US "war against terrorism." In protest, Pandey returned the \$50,000 prize he received as a Magsaysay awardee because the money came from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, a reactionary American institution. **AB**

letup and the Arroyos' hand in the extortion was slowly being revealed. In August, he was sent off to Hong Kong to cut off any link with the Arroyo couple.

To be able to milk an even bigger amount, Macapagal-Arroyo maneuvered to put in her own people in PIATCo. First, she made a show of having the PIATCo contract reviewed and declaring it anomalous. After this, she ordered presidential adviser on strategic projects Gloria Tan-Climaco, to disclose that PIATCo was merely a front of Frankfurt Airport Service Worldwide (Fraport AG), a Germany company, to pressure the latter to cut off its business ties with the Cheng family and replace it with the group of Macapagal-Arroyo crony Lucio Tan. Climaco was especially chosen for the "review" because she was privy to PIATCo's anomalous provisions and transactions. She used to chair the Sycip, Gorres and Velayo company that audits PIATCo and Fraport. Climaco, along with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, was also involved in PIATCo's bribery of former Department of Transportation and Communication secretary Pantaleon Alvarez. In connivance with Alvarez, PIATCo bloated the expenditures for the construction of the NAIA Terminal 3.

Climaco threatened Fraport with a government takeover of the project if it did not agree to Macapagal-Arroyo's conditions. Because Fraport AG had already poured \$375 million (P18.75 billion based on a P50=\$1 exchange rate) into the project, it eventually caved in before Macapagal-Arroyo's brazen extortion. On September 5, Fraport promised to raise \$400 million (P20 billion) for the project. Three-hundred million dollars (\$300 million) would go to its local partners while \$100 million (P5 billion) would go directly to Macapagal-Arroyo. **AB**

## The Mike Arroyo-NAD conspiracy

No less than Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the president's husband, is behind the series of anti-communist advertisements by the National Alliance for Democracy (NAD) that have been coming out in the papers since July.

NAD is an anti-communist vigilante group established during the US-Aquino regime. It is led by Pastor "Jun" Alcover Jr., a Cebu-based anti-communist radio commentator.

NAD sources its funds directly from Bigkis-Pinoy, a party list group formed by Mike Arroyo for his wife. In turn, Bigkis-Pinoy gets its funds from PAGCOR through its chair and Mike Arroyo minion Ephraim Genuino.

The advertisements strain to depict the revolutionary forces as terrorists. They also link the revolutionary forces to legal democratic organizations like BAYAN, Bayan Muna and KARAPATAN. They smear the name of Comrade Jose Ma. Sison much like the military does.

Neither has NAD spared others who have been criticizing Macapagal-Arroyo, such as Linda Montayre of the People's Consultative Assembly and Crispin Remulla of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino. These two are known to be close to potential Macapagal-Arroyo rivals in 2004.

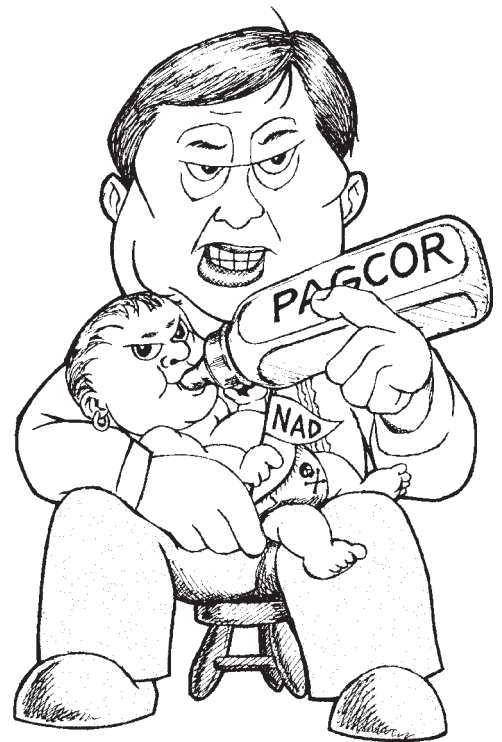
The Macapagal-Arroyo regime's anti-communist campaign has noticeably picked up since the president's talk with US President Bush in November 2001.

For this campaign, Mike Arroyo revived NAD, which was last sponsored by Joseph Estrada.

By July, the organization obviously had a lot of money since it could afford to come out with P200,000 advertisements against the revolutionary movement in national newspapers. It is Jaime Policarpio, a former Estrada man and now a partner of Mike Arroyo, who directly takes charge of NAD's black propaganda.

NAD was also directed to launch pro-US rallies during US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to the country. It also rallied against Fr. Robert Reyes when he criticized the fact that landholdings of big landlords like Mike Arroyo and Danding Cojuangco were not being subjected to agrarian reform.

During Macapagal-Arroyo's state of the nation address last July, she said that not all those who were holding rallies outside the Batasang Pambansa were against her. She approached the pro-Macapagal-Arroyo rally being launched by Bigkis-Pinoy and NAD. **AB**





## *Land-occupation in northwestern Leyte*

# Unity and resolute resistance

**M**ore than 1,000 families occupy over 2,000 hectares of farmland in northwestern Leyte comprising 30 large barangays in Ormoc City and the towns Kananga, San Isidro, Leyte, Albuera and Villaba among others.

Peasants occupy and till unproductive sugarcane farms, mostly abandoned by the owners or seized by banks after going bankrupt due to the slump in the sugar industry in the 1980s.

Along with the sustained land-occupation campaign, farmers have also achieved victories in the struggle for lower land rent and higher wages for workers in corn, coconut and sugarcane farms. These struggles, marked by close coordination among peasants in different barangays, enjoy the warm support of workers and the middle forces.

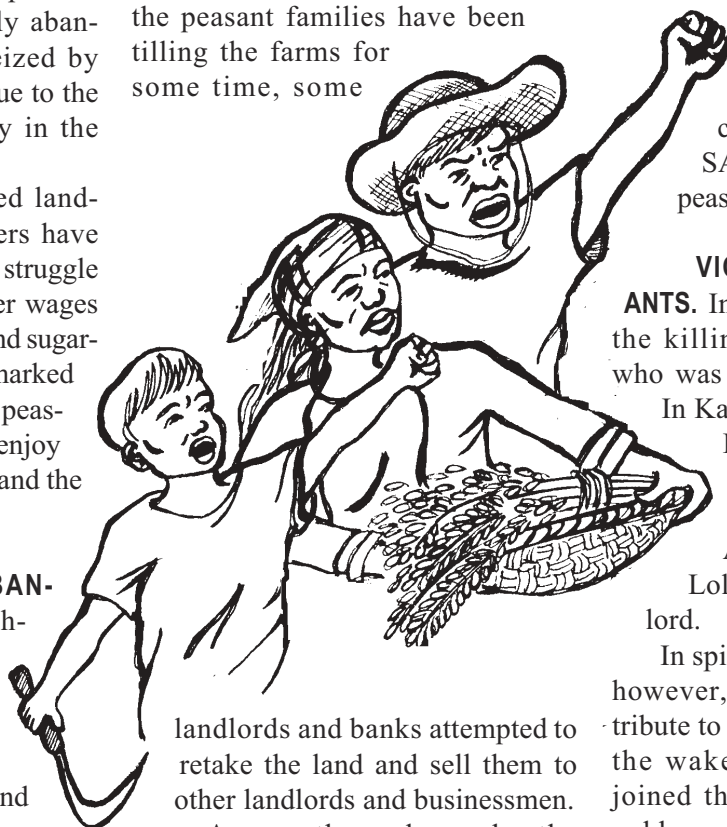
**OCCUPATION OF ABANDONED LAND.** Land in northwestern Leyte is monopolized by a handful of big landlords. The largest sugarcane plantations and some of the biggest coconut farms and pasturelands in Eastern Visayas can be found here.

Spontaneous occupation of abandoned land has been occurring in the place as early as the 1980s. Efforts of different peasant families and groups were at first sporadic. In 1995, the Samahan han Gudti nga Parag-uma-Sinirangang Bisayas (SAGUPA-SB or Association of Small Farmers-Eastern Visayas) unified and coordinated these actions. The campaign spread among adjacent barangays and towns, along highways and coastal

areas, as well as outside sugarcane farms.

### **THE LANDLORDS STRIKE BACK.**

Although most of the land being occupied by the farmers are abandoned, their struggle has not been an easy one. Despite the fact that the peasant families have been tilling the farms for some time, some



landlords and banks attempted to retake the land and sell them to other landlords and businessmen.

Among those drawn by the prospect of grabbing land to expand his ranch was Melchor Larrazabal. The Larrazabals are a powerful clan of landlords who have been lording it over Leyte for decades.

In 1996, farmers in some places were able to compel the Department of Agrarian Reform to decide to distribute land. The decision was not implemented, however, due to maneuvers by landlords like Lito Osmeña.

The Osmeñas are a powerful clan in Cebu. At that time, Lito Osmeña already owned a 100-hectare land where he planned to build an airport. He also wanted to build a golf course and illegal brothels for pedophiles in San Isidro town.

Osmeña and Larrazabal took the lead in perpetrating violence and filing trumped-up criminal charges against SAGUPA-SB and individual peasants who occupied the land.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST PEASANTS.** In 1999, Larrazabal ordered the killing of a barangay captain who was a leader of SAGUPA-SB.

In Kananga town, peasant leader Reynaldo "Teting" Villota was killed by policemen and CAFGU elements in August 1999 on orders from Loloy Labra, a despotic landlord.

In spite of continued harassment, however, the farmers bravely paid tribute to their slain comrades during the wake. Thousands of farmers joined the funeral march. Waving red banners and raising placards and streamers, they swore to continue with the struggle for which the two martyrs shed their blood.

Up to the present, the peasants face the charges and threats against them. They continue with their pickets, demonstrations, camp-outs and other forms of protest. Whenever a peasant leader is arrested or detained, they troop to jails to extend moral support to their com-

*continued on page 10*

# The capitulation and criminality of the RPM-RPA-ABB

The capitulation and criminality of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPM-RPA-ABB) are further being unmasked.

On August 31, representatives of mass organizations submitted a list of human rights violations committed by the RPM-RPA-ABB to Gov. Niel Tupas of Iloilo and Senior Supt. Johnny Mabugat. Included in the list are cases of coercion, extortion, recruitment for the CAGU, illegal logging and others. Groups led by Demetrio Capilastique alias "Hugo" and Rufino Cadugo alias "Rocky" were named as respondents.

The list was submitted in time for Macapagal-Arroyo's approval of the P17.5 million "peace" deal between the regime and the RPM-RPA-ABB. Ten million pesos (P10 million) of the amount will go to the "reintegration" of RPM-RPA-ABB surrenderees. The remaining P7.5 million will supposedly be set aside for the "joint enforcement and monitoring committee" which will be formed to implement the deal finalized in the "Clarification Document" signed on February 27 in Quezon City.

Among those who signed were Sec. Roilo Golez, Nilo dela Cruz, Arturo Tabara and Manuel Calizo. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan of the rightist RAM witnessed the signing. Since the signing, the RPA has been impudently showing off its weapons, camouflage uniforms and combat boots all issued by the government.

Aside from acting as policemen, Daniel Batoy, an RPA commander in Panay, admits that they take part in intelligence operations against the democratic and revolutionary movement. They also join the Philippine

Army in staging checkpoints and launching military operations in several places.

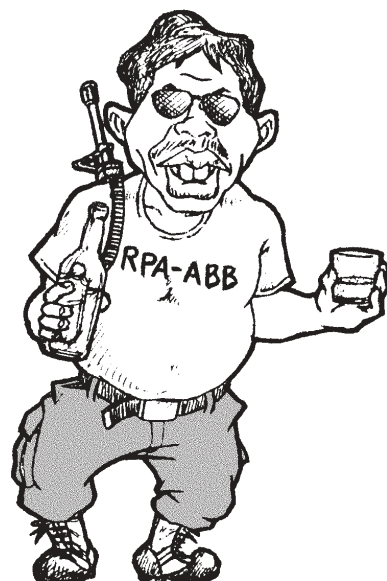
Despite the support it receives from the regime and the AFP, the RPM-RPA-ABB continues with its extortion activities. It milks at least P1,500 per month from every barangay. It also takes at least P500 per trip from loggers in the island. RPA members likewise serve as paid goons in demolition operations in Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan.

In Negros Occidental, many people were not able to vote in the July barangay elections due to threats from the RPM-RPA-ABB. Armed RPA elements guarded voting precincts to campaign for their bets in Calatrava and Don Salvador Benedicto towns.

The RPA also serves as guns for hire and goons of politicians like Danding Cojuangco and his partymate former Rep. Oscar Garin, ex-Mayor Nene dela Cruz and his wife Cynthia, mayor of Don Salvador Benedicto.

Since 1997, the RPA has been actively employed by Gen. Gerry Flores, former PNP intelligence chief. RPA elements also serve as goons for Flores and his wife who is the mayor of Miag-ao, Iloilo.

The RPM-RPA-ABB has a direct link to the Red Vigilantes Group which is engaged in the illegal drug trade, kidnapping for ransom and other gangster activities in Nueva Ecija. **AB**



*"Land-occupation...", from page 9*

rades. There have been cases where prisoners were granted temporary freedom by the courts due to the peasants' mass actions. There were also cases where the court was compelled to reduce bail.

Because their adversaries are powerful in government, the peasants lost many of their cases in

court. But they never left their land. Instead, their conviction has grown even stronger. In one pastureland, for example, the number of families occupying the land and helping each other till it swelled from 150 to 300 despite the harassment. Because landlords send goons to uproot the crops from time to time, the farmers decided to guard their farms in shifts.

The peasant's close cooperation in sustaining their struggle and strengthening their ranks are their effective weapon. They keep on raising their consciousness and their fighting will in spite of the attempts of landlords to impede their advance. With their unity and resolve to fight, they will surely continue reaping victory after victory. **AB**

# Defend Comrade Joema

Progressive youth led by Anakbayan picketed the Dutch embassy in Makati on September 24 to demand the resumption of subsidies due a political refugee to Comrade Jose Ma. Sison, Senior Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The protesters brought a symbolic “care package” of canned goods, rice, medicines, drinking water and others to be sent to Sison.

Anakbayan likewise launched the campaign “Piso para kay Prof. Joema” in support of Comrade Sison whom they described as “a good teacher, a true freedom fighter, a good friend, father and comrade”.

On August 25, relatives, comrades and friends of the Sison family and other members of the NDFP peace panel gathered in Quezon City. They belied the US’ and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime’s “terrorist” designation of the revolutionary movement and demanded an immediate stop to the regime’s campaign to discredit the NDFP. GRP peace panel members Atty. Rene Sarmiento and Rep. Jose

“Apeng” Yap also attended the gathering. Sen. Loren Legarda sent a message of solidarity where she described Ka Joema and comrades as “a special breed of Filipinos”.

On September 25, members of the Philippine Solidarity Groups-Belgium protested before the Dutch embassy. They slept on the street to assail the criminalization of the Philippine mass movement and the Dutch government’s squeeze campaign against Prof. Jose Ma. Sison. They likewise launched the “1 euro for Sison” campaign for his basic needs and legal funds.



On September 21, twenty-three members of the European Parliament expressed support for Ka Joema. In a petition brought before the Dutch government, they called for the removal of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army from the list of “terrorist organizations”. They said the inclusion of the CPP and the NPA in the list prejudices the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines which the European Parliament has long supported and

promoted. The signatories were from Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

In a press conference on September 18, Archbishop Joris Vercammen of the Old Catholic Church of Utrecht and Dominee Hans Visser of the Paulus Kerk of Rotterdam voiced support for Ka Joema’s struggle. Visser branded as “stupid” the Dutch government’s decision to stop giving subsidies to Sison. He also described as “ridiculous” the comparison of Ka Joema to Osama bin Laden.

Meanwhile, Sison’s supporters in India demonstrated before the Dutch embassy in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on September 26. Police arrested over 100 activists who brought a petition letter to the Dutch government demanding the reinstatement of the rights of Comrade Joema as a political refugee.

In Vancouver, Canada, migrant Filipinos picketed the Dutch embassy in support of Ka Joema and to denounce US terrorism. They also submitted a petition letter in defense of Ka Joema.

The activities in defense of Ka Joema are coordinated by the Committee DEFEND. Information regarding his case and struggle can be found at [www.defendsison.be](http://www.defendsison.be).

*Ang Bayan* released on September 22 a special issue on this matter. **AB**

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## On the terrorism of US imperialism and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime

*On September 11, Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal, spokesman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, conveyed the Party’s commemoration of the death of more than two thousand Americans and other nationalities victimized by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The following are excerpts from the statement:*

A year later today, the CPP affirms even more its stand against terrorism, specially the terrorism of US imperialism

that has been wreaking havoc the world over.

The US has been coercing all countries, violating their sovereignty and shunting aside international institutions, agreements and standards of civilized relations among independent nations.

The CPP denounces US imperialism’s terrorism,

*continued on page 12*



## Nation remembers martial law

The government's "leaning toward the United States" is a situation comparable to that prevailing on the eve of Marcos' imposition of martial rule in 1972. Thus stated Vice Pres. Teofisto Guingona in a forum September 21 at the De La Salle University. The forum was part of a series of activities in observance of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

"Although there is no martial law, iron-fist rule exists," said Fr. Joe Dizon in the same forum.

In Laoag City, around 1,000 farmers belonging to the Solidarity of Peasants Against Exploitation-Ilocos (Stop-Ex-Ilocos) and BAYAN-Ilocos marched from the Divine Word College to the provincial capitol to remind Ilocanos of the terrifying years of martial law. The farmers came from La Union, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Abra.

About 1,700 farmers led by BAYAN and the Paghugpong sang mga Mangunguma sa Panay kag Guimaras (Pamang-gas) marched along the main thoroughfares of Iloilo City denouncing the widespread militarization in Panay, especially against national minorities.

Rallies were also launched in different parts of Negros including Bacolod City, Cauayan, Kabankalan and Escalante. "Our cry is never again to martial law," said BAYAN-Negros secretary general Julius Mirabeles.

In Cauayan, Negros Occidental, a marker was unveiled in memory of those who bravely fought against martial rule. "This marker is a reminder of Marcos' reign of terror..." declared Task Force Detainees-Western Visayas (TFD-WV) which called for an end to Macapagal-Arroyo's all-out war campaign.

The TFD-WV also said that the number of political detainees is growing. Including the 12 in Bicol and eight in Negros who were arrested on August 30, political prisoners now number 197 in 63 jails nationwide. **AB**

## AFP vilifying Bayan Muna

A report of the Mt. Province Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) revealed that it is the military that is behind the smear campaign against the party-list group Bayan Muna.

In the report, the Philippine Army's 5<sup>th</sup> ID maliciously linked to the revolutionary movement projects being funded by Bayan Muna representatives in Congress. These include the P1-million water system project in Barangay Mainit, Bontoc and the P1-million drainage system for a public elementary school in the same town.

The report likewise stated the false claims by Maj. Carlito Bueno Jr of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Forces Company regarding Wyndel Bolinget and Jonathan Torafeng, officers of the Cordillera People's Alliance. Major Bueno claims that Bolinget and Torafeng asked for the votes of Barangay Mainit residents in the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July, before the projects were implemented. But according to Bolinget, he has not been to Mainit since 1999.

Mayor Thomas Killip of Sagada, Mt. Province expressed concern over the military's negative view of the P5 million allocated by Bayan Muna for the construction of a five-kilometer road linking Ambasing and Sagada-Dantay.

He described as irrational the military's campaign against Bayan Muna. "Actually, the ones who are being called terrorists are the people who want to help our community," he said. **AB**

*"On the terrorism..." from page 11*

aggression and warmongering. The CPP also condemns the Macapagal-Arroyo regime which has done nothing but blindly obey the orders of its master US President Bush.

It is utterly irresponsible, baseless and malicious for the US and the regime to tag the CPP and the NPA as terrorist. It is twisted logic that is

behind Macapagal-Arroyo's contention that the CPP and the NPA are "generic terrorists" because they are waging armed struggle to overthrow the reactionary government....

Branding the CPP and the NPA as terrorist was worked out only to justify the continued presence of American troops in the country.... The US has used and will continue using joint military exercises to conceal

its intervention in the Philippines' internal affairs.

The CPP and the NPA aver that terrorism has no place in, and is contrary to, the advancement of revolutionary armed struggle and that it violates international standards on the conduct of war. This stand was not merely stated by Ka Roger, but is stipulated in the basic principles and rules that NPA fighters adhere to. **AB**



## ANTI-PPA PROTEST ACTIONS STAGED IN PANAY

Some 9,000 people launched protest actions against the purchased power adjustment (PPA) in Panay in September.

In Iloilo City, about 7,000 marched along the city's main roads. In Roxas City, around 2,000 including 50 Catholic priests gathered for a prayer rally against the PPA.

The Iloilo provincial chapter of the coalition People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (POWER) was formed on September 12. The coalition includes BAYAN, the local governments of nine Iloilo towns and the Archdiocese of Jaro.

## VENDORS PROTEST

At least 1,250 people took part in protest actions between August 22 and September 12 against Metro Manila Development Authority chairman Bayani Fernados's campaign to rid the metropolis of sidewalk vendors. The mass actions were led by the Alyansa ng mga Manininda sa Kalookan; Alyansa ng mga Manininda Para sa Pagtatanggol sa Kabuhayan at Karapatan; and Metro Manila Vendors Alliance.

## PETROLEUM PRICES HIKED ANEW

Prices of petroleum products rose for the fifth time this year in September. Caltex, Petron and Shell imposed an increase of around 39 centavos per liter of gasoline, diesel fuel and kerosene. Eastern Petroleum and Total followed suit. Meanwhile, the price of liquefied petroleum gas was raised by P1 per kilogram. Militant organizations protested the price hikes. PISTON, the militant organization of drivers and operators of public utility vehicles, stated that it would be compelled to demand an increase in fare rates by P1 if oil prices were not rolled back.



## U.S. PUSHES FOR JUNKING OF ICC

Around 150 countries are being pressured by the US not to ratify the 1998 Rome Statute which provides for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The US threatens to withdraw its pledges of aid if the countries do not give in. Among the first countries to be warned were Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Meanwhile, the Philippines has rejected the ICC.

The ICC will try cases of genocide, war crimes and other crimes against humanity. The US is extremely worried about the establishment of the ICC because it is guilty of a long list of crimes against humanity.

## NEPAL REVOLUTIONARIES LAUNCH OFFENSIVES, STRIKE

A mere ten days after lifting the state of emergency, the reactionary state of Nepal was again shaken by two big offensives by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist. The PLA attacked government troops in the district of Sindhuli and the town of Sandhikharka on September 8 and 9, killing 89 policemen and 17 soldiers.

The state was shaken further when a general strike paralyzed the country September 16. The strike was organized to protest the coming November elections.

King Gyanendra of Nepal first declared a state of emergency in November 2001 after a spate of PLA attacks that resulted in a large number of military and police casualties.

## PALESTINIAN PROTEST ACTIONS SPREADING

The major towns and the Occupied Territories in Palestine witnessed big rallies last September despite nonstop bombing by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). On September 19, the IDF stopped short of leveling the headquarters of Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority. The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution for the immediate withdrawal of the IDF from Palestinian territory a few days later with only the US refusing to sign. Israel had earlier refused to heed the resolution but was later on compelled to pull out from Ramallah on September 28.